THE BEST LOOKS FROM FASHION WEEK

FIND OUT WHAT'S TRENDING ON THE FALL RUNWAYS. PAGES 22-24

metro

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Tuesday, February 17, 2015 **www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork**

Another week

Weather woes. Keep your hat on, New York; subfreezing temperatures will continue through Friday. PAGE 06

With temperatures in the teens, New York City is under a Winter Weather Advisory as more snow is forecast for the region Tuesday night and Wednesday. / GETTY IMAGES

Interview: Stringer's progressive vision

PAGE 02

Meet young 'Kingsman' star Taron Egerton

PAGE 20

New York goes soft with love for Amar'e

PAGE 27

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'Source: Chris Johnson, Michael Vick leaving Jets'

2 'The gay dating app Scruff hopes to shift focus from hookups to relationships with new feature'

3 'It ain't over: As buried Boston keeps digging, more snow on way for Northeast U.S.'

On the go

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Stringer's theory: A progressive vision

Keeping count. City's money-watcher-in-chief says affordable housing and job training will ensure New Yorkers have a chance to climb the economic ladder.

Metro speaks to City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, in his office at the Municipal Building in lower Manhattan. / MILES DIXON, METRO

The man who makes sure the city puts its money where it matters has a vision for a progressive New York City.

"We have to build an economy that continues the tradition of New York City. We need an aspirational economy," Comptroller Scott Stringer told Metro in his office at the Municipal Building. "The job of City Hall is to clear the decks so the aspirational move to the middle class can happen."

Helping that middle class grow, and making sure City Hall spends New Yorkers' tax dollars to the best effect, is at the heart of Stringer's mission, which is why his top priorities are affordable housing and job creation.

"If the entrance fee to New York is a $1 or $2 million condo, then no one is going to be able to come live here or stay here," Stringer said, applauding Mayor Bill de Blasio's commitment to create new, affordable housing across the city.

Stringer spent his first year in office going after city agencies that failed to live up to their financial commitments, butting heads with de Blasio on budget priorities. Stringer called out de Blasio for not properly accounting for long-expired labor contracts (they're now nearly all signed), and he hasn't been shy about pointing a finger at the mayor and city agencies since.

"I'm the auditor-in-chief. I'm the guy you don't want to see at the party," Stringer said.

Stringer, a former state Assembly member and Manhattan borough president who briefly sought the mayor's office in 2013, gave a thumbs up to the progressive vision and financial pragmatism in the $77.7 billion budget de Blasio introduced Feb. 9.

"At first blush, it looks to be a very responsible document," he said, noting that progressivism and fiscal responsibility aren't mutually exclusive.

"You have to be able to do both," he said.

Still, Stringer couldn't resist pointing out that de Blasio's recent initiative to reduce frivolous lawsuits against the city was preceded by his own plan to track the suits. The mayor wants to spend $3.2 million on 40 more city attorneys to take on people who file lawsuits he's called frivolous. The city's budgeted $674 million to settle lawsuits, some for as little as $5,000.

"I'm glad on the litigation side the law department and mayor are also taking a look at this," said Stringer, whose office approves settlements made by the city. "We raised this issue a year ago."

While some East New York residents are pushing back at de Blasio's plans to open the area to development in exchange for affordable housing, Stringer, a Washington Heights native who began his political career as a housing activist on the Upper West Side, said New Yorkers need to recognize that change can be good.

"Skylines change and they should — it's New York. It always changes," Stringer said. "But they have to change with the abilities of communities to have a say."

Part of making sure his own office comes through for taxpayers is to keep agencies honest. In his first year in office, Stringer's office zeroed in on the Department of Education's inability to deal with overcrowded classrooms and its failure to properly track allegations of misconduct.

He supports more money to train New Yorkers for jobs in technology and hospitality, two growing industries.

He's released scathing audits of mismanagement by the New York City Housing Authority and its failure to secure $692 million to repair the homes of its 630,000 residents.

"This is where we can change income disparity," he said. "This is where we can put a progressive agenda to work. But NYCHA leadership does not recognize the audits. They can't admit that there's a problem, so how can they fix it?"

Stringer says he is using his office's power to sign off on the city budget to ensure agencies follow through with the promises they make after every investigation, especially NYCHA.

"Otherwise what's the point of doing an audit? My job is not just to blow the whistle and say gotcha," he said. "We want to change public policy."

CHESTER SORIA
@chestersoria
chester.soria@metro.us

Audited

"I'm the auditor in chief. I'm the guy you don't want to see at the party," Stringer said of his position working for the city.

- Stringer launched ClaimStat, a public, online database that tracks financial claims against the city, including the police, parks and sanitation departments. The hope is to reduce the $674 million the city has budgeted for claims this year.

Quoted

"If the entrance fee to New York is a $1 or $2 million condo, then no one is going to be able to come live here or stay here."

Stringer

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AG takes on zombie homes

Housing. Bill would help people stay in homes longer, get rid of eye sores.

There are zombies among us, and Attorney General Eric Schneiderman wants the state to keep track of how many.

Zombie foreclosures, that is. Schneiderman said Monday he plans to reintroduce a bill in Albany later this month that will address the state's problem of abandoned homes not being maintained during extended foreclosures.

A home becomes a zombie foreclosure when a bank starts the foreclosure process and the homeowner vacates. The limbo that follows — the home falling into disrepair, squatters moving in and the bank failing to maintain — is what makes a zombie foreclosure.

New York City had 3,525 residential zombie foreclosures in 2014, according to the attorney general's office and data from Realty Trac. These properties can fall into disrepair, increase crime and decrease property values, according to Schneiderman. And too many homeowners don't know they have the right to stay in their home until the foreclosure is complete.

The bill, called the Abandoned Property Neighborhood Relief Act, would create a tracking system to monitor foreclosures locally and require banks to maintain properties earlier in the foreclosure process.

Last year, the New York Post reported top neighborhoods for zombie homes included East New York and St. Albans.

By the numbers

3,525
Number of residential zombie foreclosures in 2014

16,700
Zombie foreclosures across state

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman wants to cut down on zombie homes. / GETTY IMAGES

Flood. Burst pipe sends hundreds of hotel guests into cold morning

A burst water pipe rudely awakened hundreds of tourists sleeping at a Financial District hotel early Monday morning.

Some 600 guests at the Holiday Inn on Washington Street were instructed to leave their rooms when a 1-inch fire sprinkler pipe on the roof exploded and sent water into the building and its rooms.

The leak set off the fire alarm, which sent guests in the hotel's 492 rooms down the stairs of the 50-floor building.

Fire officials said one man fell during the evacuation and was taken to Bellevue for treatment, but that there were no other injuries at the site.

Management at the hotel told reporters that some of their guests were being placed in other hotels in the area owned by the chain, and a nearby restaurant opened its doors to people who were moved out of the overcrowded lobby.

Hotel management was unable to say how long it would take to repair the water damage.

It's not clear if the bitter arctic temperatures that hit the region over the weekend contributed to the pipe burst, authorities said.

CHESTER SORIA

Metro-North. Schumer calls for $400M for safer grade crossings

Federal lawmakers want Congress to make safer grade crossings — where railroads meet with roadways — to prevent future disasters like the Feb. 3 Metro-North crash near Valhalla.

Six people died when a northbound train on the Harlem line crashed into an SUV on the track, the deadliest passenger train accident in the commuter rail's history.

While National Transportation Safety Board investigators have not conclusively determined what caused the accident, legislators believe grade crossings played a role.

"It's crystal clear that the existence of the rail grade crossing played at least some role in the fatal, tragic accident," Sen. Chuck Schumer said in a statement Saturday. "This new legislation will focus on providing new resources to the Federal Railroad Administration, states and localities to help make much-needed improvements."

"Simply put, these deaths and injuries are preventable through better education, enforcement and engineering, and we have a moral obligation to act," Schumer said.

Metro reported after the crash that eliminating all 129 grade crossings on Metro-North tracks would take years, and that the railroad has budgeted only $1.5 million in fiscal year 2016 for upgrades.

CHESTER SORIA

Grade crossings are MTA safety issue

METRO REPORTED FEB. 5 ON PROBLEMS WITH GRADE CROSSINGS.

By the numbers

The grade crossing bill would allocate:

- $200 million over four years to upgrade or eliminate grade crossings
- $100 million to relocate rail lines
- $100 million to fix grade crossings under a 2008 program that was never implemented.

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1 Landscape. Ice gathers in the East River under the Brooklyn Bridge in Lower Manhattan.
2 Skate. Travis Fondow, 27, of Minnesota, trains in Central Park on Monday.
3 Sled. Jasmine, 14, and Maya, 9, sled in Central Park.
4 Slip. People slip on iced-over snow in Central Park.

MILES DIXON, METRO

Weather. Cold to wrap city through Friday

With thermometers perpetually down in the teens and 20s through the end of the workweek, New Yorkers have a glimmer of hope to hold on to for Sunday: highs in the 40s (with rain and snow expected).

But that's five days away.

Many New Yorkers spent Presidents Day near their closest radiator. Monday was ice cold, but not cold enough to set a record, said John Murray, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. A low of 3 degrees was recorded in Central Park at 7:29 a.m. on Monday. The record low, 1 degree, was recorded back in 1888.

New York is expected to get 3 to 4 inches of snow by the end of the morning Tuesday, Murray said. The snowstorm is a quickly moving low-pressure area coming up from the coast of the Carolinas, and should blow through by the afternoon.

The city has issued a snow alert starting at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday to prepare crews and equipment for snow removal.

Tuesday will see a high of up to 26 degrees, and a low of 19 Tuesday evening.

Wednesday should be the warmest day of the rest of the week, Murray said, with highs around 30 degrees, and a slight chance of snow starting in the afternoon and lasting through the evening.

"Thursday and Friday temperatures will plummet down in the teens," Murray said.

Saturday will see highs in the lower 30s, while Sunday will get up to 40 degrees with a chance of rain and snow showers.

When the temperatures drop, city officials urge residents to report heat and hot water outages by calling 311. According to city records, 311 received 2,329 calls on Saturday and 2,936 on Sunday. **WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE**

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Law in order

Detectives union has a contract again

The city settled yet another labor deal late last week, leaving three more unformed rank-and-file and a handful of smaller civilian unions without contracts.

The Detectives Endowment Association said it ratified a seven-year contract with the de Blasio administration — the second of five police unions to do so in the last year.

Police captains signed an identical contract in January, while lieutenants will vote next week and talks continue with sergeants. The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association entered into arbitration with the city late last year.

Just under 30 percent of the city's workforce still has no contract with the city.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

Brooklyn. Man found dead on boardwalk

Coney Island boardwalk / GETTY IMAGES

An elderly man was found dead,on the Coney Island boardwalk early Monday as the cold beat down on the city, police said.

Cops said the 77-year-old man was found faceup near the carousel at around 7:15 a.m.

Around that time, the National Weather Service reported minus-5-degree wind chills near John F. Kennedy Airport.

The man, identified as Bai-Ping Wen by the New York Daily News, was pronounced dead at the scene at around 7:30 a.m.

Wen, who lived in the neighborhood for 15 years, had diabetes, the News said.

Weather likely contributed to the death, officials speculated. The medical examiner's office is investigating.

A spokeswoman said there have been no confirmed cold-tied deaths from the weekend's deep freeze. CHESTER JESUS SORIA

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Destroyed car and debris after Egypt's army warplanes carried out airstrikes in neighboring Libya against ISIS targets. / GETTY IMAGES

Egypt bombs ISIS targets in Libya after beheadings

Video. The 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians were marched to a beach, forced to kneel and then beheaded.

Egyptian jets bombed Islamic State targets in Libya on Monday, a day after the group there released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians, drawing Cairo directly into the conflict across its border.

Egypt said the pre-dawn strike hit militant camps, training sites and weapons storage areas in the neighboring oil-producing country, where factional fighting has unleashed virtual anarchy and created havens for jihadi Islamists.

While Cairo is believed to have provided clandestine support to a Libyan general fighting a rogue government in Tripoli, the 21 decapitations pushed President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi into open action, expanding his battle against Islamist militancy.

"And let those near and far know that the Egyptians have a shield that protects and preserves the security of the country, and a sword that eradicates terrorism," the Egyptian military said in a statement.

Egyptian state television aired footage of fighter planes leaving a hangar with "Long live Egypt" emblazoned on their tails, followed by night-vision aerial footage showing bomb explosions and the aircraft returning in early daylight.

Libya's air force also participated in Monday's attack, which targeted Derna, an eastern coastal city regarded as a base for fighters of the ultra-radical Islamic State.

Libyan air force Commander Saqer al-Joroushi, who is loyal to Libya's internationally recognized government, which set up camp in the city of Tobruk after losing control of the capital Tripoli, said there would be more strikes on Tuesday. REUTERS

Quoted

"There are losses among individuals, ammunition and the [Islamic State] communication centers."

Libyan air force commander Saqer al-Joroushi, told Egyptian state television, adding that dozens had been killed

Truce violated

Battle rages for town, rebels reject cease-fire

Pro-Russian rebels pounded encircled Ukrainian government forces on Monday and Kiev said it would not pull back heavy guns while a truce was being violated, leaving a peace deal on the verge of collapse.

The European Union kept pressure on Russia and the rebels by announcing a new list of separatists and Russians targeted with sanctions, to which Moscow promised an "adequate" response.

Fighting subsided in many parts of eastern Ukraine under a cease-fire that came into force on Sunday, under the deal reached last week in marathon talks involving the leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine.

But the truce appears to have been stillborn in Debaltseve, where the most intensive fighting has taken place in recent weeks.

"The situation is fragile," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the driving force behind the deal reached on Thursday after all-night talks in Minsk. REUTERS

Quoted

"It was always clear that much remains to be done. And I have always said that there are no guarantees that what we are trying to do succeeds. It will be an extremely difficult path." Merkel

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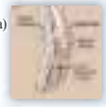

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Oil train derails in West Virginia, explosions follow

Precautions.
WOWK TV reported that nearby towns of Adena Village and Boomer Bottom were evacuated.

A CSX Corp train hauling North Dakota crude derailed in West Virginia on Monday, setting a number of cars ablaze, destroying a house and forcing the evacuation of two towns in the second significant oil-train incident in three days.

One or two of the cars plunged into the Kanawha River, and "a couple are burning," said Robert Jelacic, night shift manager of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. There were no injuries or deaths, he said.

West Virginia State Police First Sergeant Greg Duckworth, who was at the crash site, said that nine or 10 of the cars had exploded at intervals of about every half hour.

A similar sequence has occurred in a handful of other derailments over the past two years, with the fire from one tank heating up gases in the next nearest car, causing it to ignite.

"It's a real mess down here," Duckworth said. He said all but 14 of the cars on the train had been pulled out of harm's way.

West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin issued a state of emergency for Kanawha and Fayette counties. REUTERS

A 1-mile-wide area around the incident was being evacuated.
YOUTUBE, SKINNY JOEY

Train cars

109

CSX said the train was hauling 109 cars from North Dakota to the coastal town of Yorktown, Virginia, where midstream firm Plains All American Pipelines runs an oil depot. It said one person was being treated for potential fume inhalation.

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Washington, DC

Monument shrinks slightly with new measurement

The Washington Monument, one of the landmarks of the U.S. capital, is officially 10 inches shorter under a new measurement announced on Monday's Presidents Day holiday.

The obelisk on Washington's National Mall is 554 feet, 7 and 11/32 inches tall, smaller than its historical height of 555 feet, 5 and 1/8 inches, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a statement.

The new measurement by NOAA's National Geodetic Survey is based on standards of the international Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats and was completed in December, the statement said.

"Today's elevation reflects the international standards for measurement of a building's height as well as considerable technological improvements," said Dru Smith, NOAA's chief geodesist. REUTERS

The Washington Monument
GETTY IMAGES

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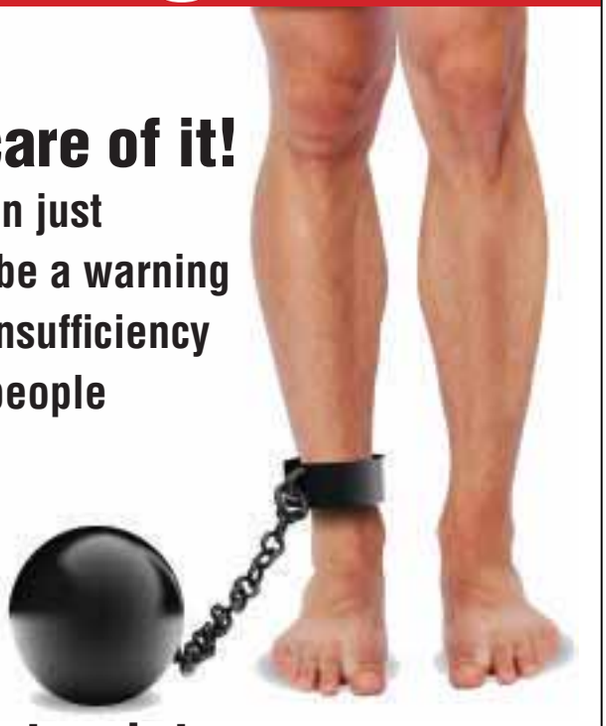

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Opportunities have unfolded in front of Chriselle Tidrick.

Chriselle Tidrick's "day job" is working evenings as a ticket taker at the Metropolitan Opera. / ROSE CALLAHAN, RIGHT: JULIE LEMBERGER

How long have you been a ticket taker at the Metropolitan Opera House? What exactly do you do?
I got this job 15 years ago through a friend. Otherwise I never would have thought of it. I work in the evenings six days a week, taking tickets from people coming to see the performances. I love it. I like being able to see the performances and hear wonderful music.

You also have your own dance company, Above and Beyond Dance. What goes into that?
Since I only work in the evenings at the Metropolitan Opera House, except on Saturdays, my days are free to work on my company. If we have

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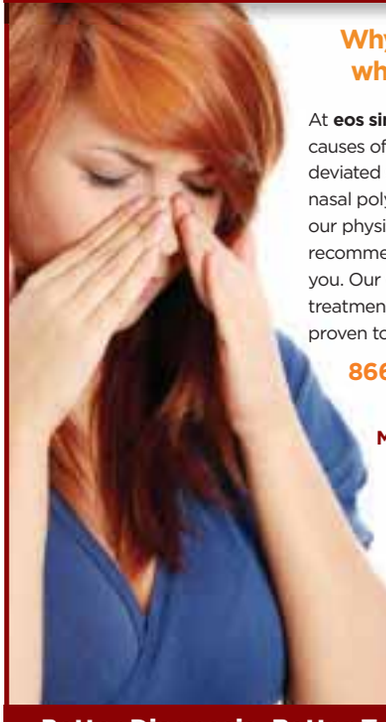

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Bio

Chriselle Tidrick

Residence: Boerum Hill, Brooklyn
Lives with: Her husband
Number of jobs: 3

Tidrick performing

a performance coming up, my dancers and I will spend hours in the studio rehearsing. There is also a lot of administrative work that needs to be done. From fundraising, to scheduling, to press releases and promo, I'm really doing everything myself.

Were you scared to take the risk of starting your own business?

I was scared to death. But the great thing is, I have some wonderful friends who are also choreographers. I sat down with them and really picked their brains about how I could make this happen.

Do you have to fundraise so you have enough money for the upkeep and to pay your dancers?

There's a lot to pay for: the venue, rehearsal space, costumes, the musicians, dancers. … It adds up quite fast. If I charged at the box office what it would be to cover my costs, no one would be able to afford to come to the performances. I've gotten some grants and also private donations, which has helped greatly.

Are you happy working both jobs?

It's amazing. I also do work with other dance companies, my third "job" of sorts. It's such a blessing to get to be an artist and travel. When I was a teenager, I really wanted to be a performer, but I wasn't sure I could make it happen. This performance life has just sort of unfolded in front of me. Everything I do brings me a lot of joy.

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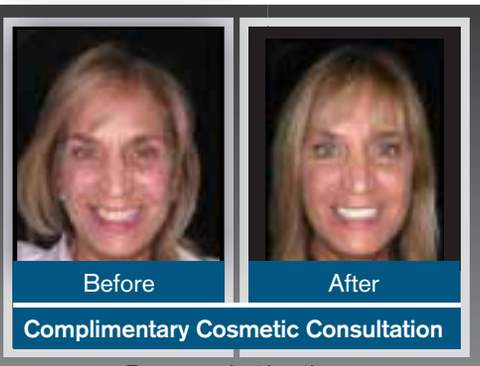

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Gilbert Gottfried hosts star-studded school fundraiser

Causes. Comedy stars come together for education.

By fundraiser standards, a stand-up show featuring stars that included John Oliver, Colin Quinn and Jim Gaffigan would be impressive. Last Tuesday, all of those big names and others gathered at the Gotham Comedy Club to raise money for "Comedy for a Cause" an annual fundraiser for PS 11 in Chelsea.

The fundraiser is the brainchild of Dara Gottfried and her husband, comedian and long-time Gilbert Gottfried. Both of the Gottfrieds' two children attend PS 11. Funds from the comedy show and accompanying online auction will go to the elementary school's various programs.

We sat down with Gilbert Gottfried just before he took the stage.

How did you get all these guys to come together for this show?
"My wife [Dara] is kind of a bulldozer at these events and she starts calling people and then they show up."

And does everyone here live in the neighborhood?
"They live all over — I don't think any of them have been to my house. They don't like me."

Well, you got them to come on a cold evening.
"Oh yeah, I wish they'd come out and I could stay at home."

Were you artistic as a kid? "I liked to draw, I liked to imitate people that I saw on TV and I was absolutely the worst student that you could find."

But for students like that it's important to have other activities so that they have an outlet.
"Oh absolutely. I do the voice for this show called "Cyberchase" on PBSKids and it's educational. Half the time I have no idea what I'm saying but parents are like, 'This is great.'"
Do kids recognize your voice because of "Cyberchase"?
Some do, and some have to be told. And every now and then you find a 5-year-old who knows me from 'The Aristocrats' and that's a problem."

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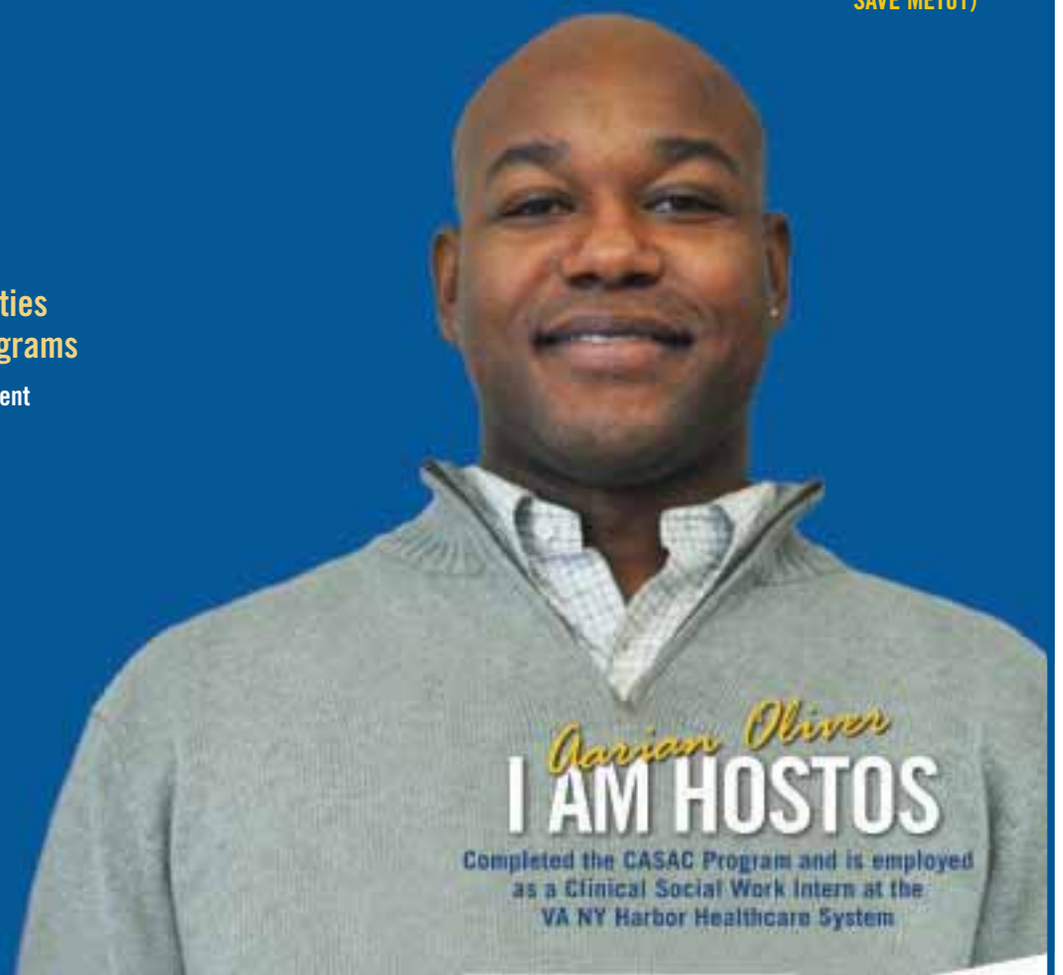
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App guides parents through mountains of school data

Tech. School Central NYC aims to make data clearer.

Finding out how your child's school is doing just got easier. / ISTOCK

Navigating the New York City public school system can be daunting for even the most research-savvy parent. An app created by a local parent in partnership with the Department of Education tries to make things easier.

"I'm a member of the Community Education Council, and at our meetings, people were constantly asking about schools," says Eric Goldberg, a Murray Hill father whose two children attend P.S. 116.

Speaking to these parents inspired Goldberg to create School Central NYC, a new app that compares data from 1,600 schools in the city.

The app is available in the iTunes Store and on Google Play.

"The DOE had made the information available, but they hadn't taken that second step by making it digital," says Goldberg. Working with a developer, he released the app's first version last year. After that the DOE offered to partner with him. Goldberg says. Parents, he said, want to learn about the schools before enrolling their children. For high schools, parents want to know what is the graduation rate and what are the average SAT scores.

LAKSHMI GANDHI
@LakshmiGandhi
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Bilingual families

For Spanish speakers

Goldberg is especially proud all of the data has been translated into Spanish. "That was part of the help the DOE provided," he says. "We're hoping to add more languages."

Research

The categories

The app allows parents to sort data by categories including test scores and evaluations. Parents can also search for a school by its name or by neighborhood. "

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1 Justin Bieber is Naomi Campbell's new BFF

Justin Bieber may be the fashion world's problem now, as he's been tearing it up at New York Fashion Week, blonde locks and all. He's been rubbing elbows with Kanye West, besting challengers at ping pong and rocking some truly questionable leather jackets and a hilariously wispy mustache. Not only that, but the Biebs scored himself a front-row seat for Naomi Campbell's Fashion for Relief event and got to be paraded around backstage by the hostess herself. They were even spotted holding hands, which might be more a Naomi Campbell affectation than signs of a burgeoning romance, but still. Hey, maybe she can finally get through to Bieber that the shirts that look like mini-dresses look stupid on him.

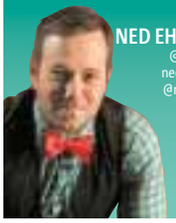
2 Sorry, Internet, Benedict Cumberbatch is married

So, how was your Valentine's Day? I'm going to go ahead and guess that it was easily upstaged by Benedict Cumberbatch's. The "Sherlock" star spent the romantic holiday getting married to fiancée Sophie Hunter in a private ceremony at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church on the Isle of Wight in England, as you do. So did the recently engaged couple go with the Valentine's Day wedding date so it would be easy to remember? Or was it to make sure no one would question their romantic bona fides? My theory is that it happened to fall on the one weekend in Awards Season when he didn't have to be somewhere flogging "The Imitation Game" — which also won a Writers Guild of America award for its screenplay the very same day. Everything's coming up Cumberbatch.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.



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3 Welcome to Paul McCartney's pizza party

How do you get Tom Hanks, Meryl Streep, Bradley Cooper, Eddie Murphy, Chris Rock and Jim Carrey together for a pizza party? Make sure it's hosted by Sir Paul McCartney. Ahead of the "Saturday Night Live" 40th anniversary show, McCartney did a surprise Valentine's Day show Saturday night at New York's Irving Plaza, with a slew of VIP "SNL" guests in attendance backstage. So to keep them happy he ordered a bunch of pizzas. Now, while that might seem weird coming from super eco-friendly vegetarian poster child Paul, it's OK because the pies, from Neapolitan Express, were totes GMO-free. So chow down without feeling guilty, Meryl.

4 Cindy Crawford even looks gorgeous un-retouched

Cosmopolitan has a new spread featuring supermodel Cindy Crawford in all her 49-year-old glory, and they're not being shy about it. After the image leaked on Twitter, the magazine's staff went on record about the un-Photoshopped images. "An un-retouched photo of Cindy Crawford has been circulating on Twitter this morning, revealing a body that defies expectations—it is real, it is honest, and it is gorgeous," a statement from the magazine states.

@CHARLENEWHITE / TWITTER

Daily video

Alyson Stoner's Missy Elliot tribute

THEREALALYSONSTONER / YOUTUBE

You may know Alyson Stoner best as a regular on Disney Channel fare like "The Suite Life of Zach and Cody" or from three of the various "Step Up" films, but she got her start even earlier. Like, as a little kid earlier. And the recent Super Bowl-fueled resurgence of Missy Elliott offered the perfect opportunity for Stoner to say thanks to the hip-hop icon for giving her career a jump-start nearly 15 years ago, when Stoner was the kiddie dancer in Elliott's videos "Work It," "Gossip Folks" and "I'm Really Hot." "I dedicate this video to Missy Elliott herself," Stoner says in the video. "Missy, thank you so much for the opportunity to dance for you and now carve a path of my own."

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Hailee Steinfeld is a bit chilly, Bill Maher is an even prouder stoner today, Bette Midler is trying to be flexible, Kirstie Alley is a slave to shopping and Shawn Hatosy is feeling romantic.

@HaileeSteinfeld: Someone hug me. I'm cold.

@billmaher: Vindication! Natl Hiway Traffic Safety Admin says driving stoned is safer than driving drunk. Altho not when the joint falls btwn ur legs...

@BetteMidler: Ruth Bader Ginsburg said she wasn't 100% sober at the State of the Union. To be fair, she was deciding the case of Red Wine v. White Wine.

@kirstiealley: I love it when HSN or QVC have things I have no interest in..frees me up to get out of bed

@ShawnHatosy: I just want to thank all the girls who blew off Thom Yorke in high school because I don't think we would have "The Bends" if he got laid.

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Michael Booth is a British journalist who has lived in Denmark for more than 10 years. / PROVIDED

Scandinavian countries not as perfect as they seem

Non-fiction. As the weekend shootings in Denmark show, Nordic countries are no Utopia. Journalist and author Michael Booth weighs in.

As Americans, we live in a country where being a workaholic is praised, child care is never free and higher education is a massive expense. We often look to countries like Denmark, Sweden and Norway as peaceful places where no one is overworked and everyone dresses cool. Journalist Michael Booth has lived in Scandinavia — Denmark to be exact — for 10 years. While he says he really does love Denmark and lives there by choice, he wants to correct a few misconceptions outsiders have. Here, he sets the record straight.

The happiness myth

For decades Denmark would always come in on top as the happiest country in the world, but Booth says these surveys can be misleading. "When I spoke to the people behind these surveys, they kind of admit that 'happy' is the wrong word and they only use it to get headlines," he tells us. "What they're really measuring is life satisfaction and how content people are. Danes are incredibly content. But I wouldn't say they're happy," he says.

Getting what you pay for?

We often talk admiringly about how Nordic counties have free college tuition, universal health care and inexpensive child care.

But is the quality of these services worth what they pay in taxes? "Well, that's kind of my big grouch as a foreigner," Booth says, adding that the services are mediocre. "It's tough as a freelancer to give up more than 50 percent of [my] income directly. And then the food and shops are more expensive as well," he says, citing the 25 percent sales tax Denmark has on clothes.

It's easier to be a social climber

Ironically, the American Dream is easier to accomplish in Scandinavia. "It starts with free education. ... If a working class kid wants to become a professional, he doesn't have to take out loans to finance his education."

Not all bad

3 things Danes actually get right

1 **Be social.** Danish people have high social memberships, such as being part of a sports league or volunteering.

2 **Appreciate the simple things.** Instead of valuing things that are flashy or expensive, Danes truly value spending time with their family and friends more than anything else.

3 **Stop working so hard.** When it comes to work-life balance, Danes tip the scale way in favor of life. They work to live, not live to work.

When OK is good enough

Though social mobility is much easier, Booth says flaunting wealth is a big faux-pas. "A lack of ambition really drives these societies," he says.

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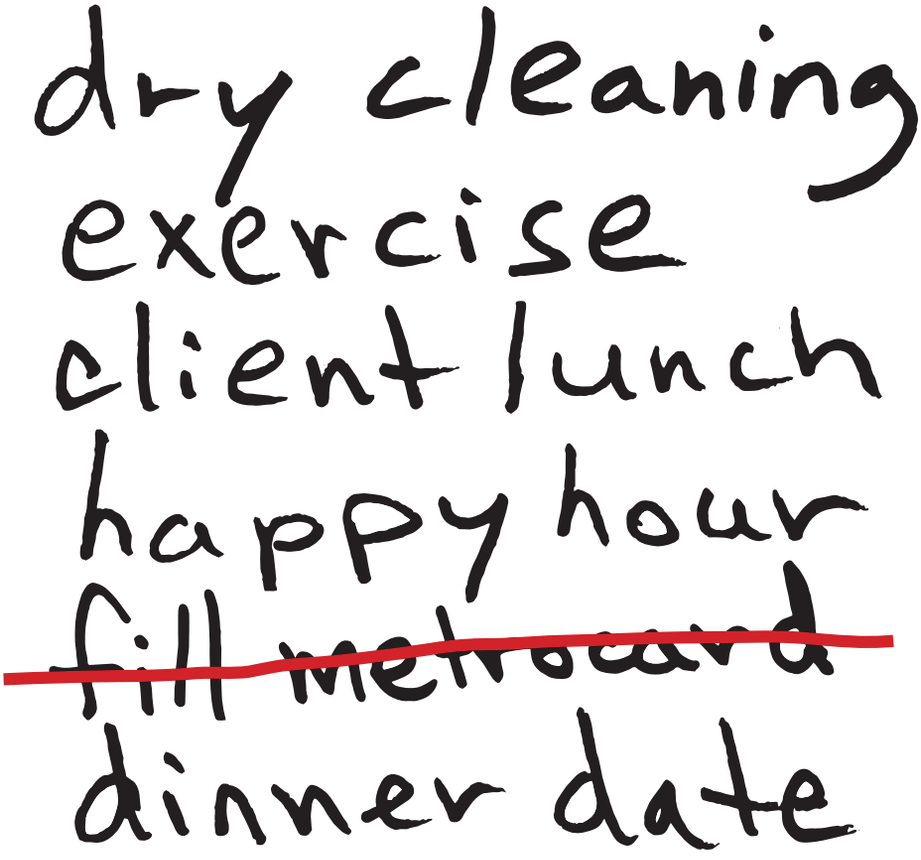

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The Breakthrough: Taron Egerton

The facts

- **Who:** Taron Egerton
- **Where you may have seen him:** The 25-year-old English actor had a key role on the 2014 British TV drama "The Smoke."
- **Where he is now:** He's the of "Kingsman: The Secret Service," in which he plays a young Londoner trains to be a super-secret spy.
- **Where he's going:** He's playing Tom Hardy's lover in Brian Helgeland's gangster drama "Legend," about the Kray brothers.

Introductions.

The young star of 'Kingsman' tells us about acting with legends and his unlikely first role.

Was he nervous to act alongside legends?: "I get asked this question a lot, and I think it's about this desire to romanticize it. ... You meet them in the flesh and they're normal blokes. They're just millionaires and I'm not."

The film's portrayal of a low-income kid made over into a gentleman: "I think if you checked in with the character after the film he'd still be wearing the clothes he was wearing at the beginning. There's nothing wrong with who he is at the start. There are certain things wrong with his life, but they are not synonymous with his low income or his background."

His first role: "I was 15. I played a 'mechanical' in 'A Midsummer Nights Dream.' The 'mechanicals' are the players who did the play for the king and queen. My character played a woman in the play. So my first role I was dressed up as a woman."

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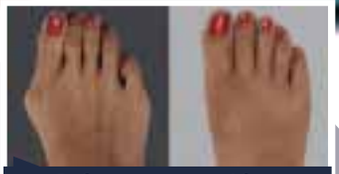

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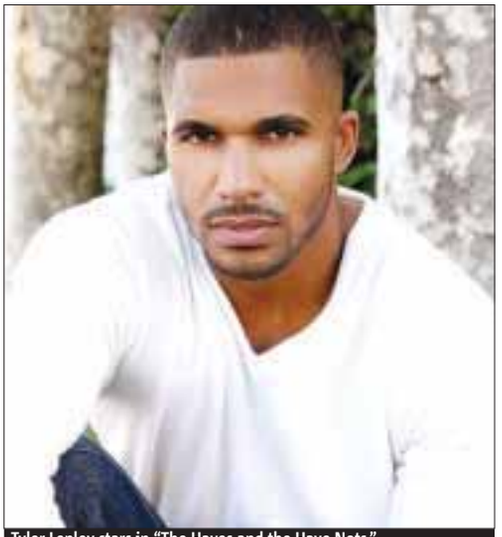
Finding success as a 'Have Not'



Tyler Lepley stars in "The Haves and the Have Nots," tonight at 9 on OWN. / THE CHAMBER GROUP

Interview. Tyler Lepley didn't have plans to be an actor before landing a role on Tyler Perry's hit soap opera.

The road to success takes many unexpected turns. For Tyler Lepley of the OWN soap opera "The Haves and the Have Nots," one of those turns included auditioning for a man in drag.

The man in drag was Tyler Perry, creator of "The Haves and the Have Nots."

"He was in the middle of shooting 'A Madea Christmas,' and the thing about him is, as funny as it was and as much as you get a chuckle out of it, it was the first time I really understood what type of drive he had and what type of diligence he had," Lepley says. "He is such a hard worker that he was shooting a movie while he was casting his next show."

That show, now in its third season, is the most popular scripted series on Oprah Winfrey's OWN. Only Winfrey's interview with Bobbi Kristina Brown has scored higher ratings for the network.

The series follows the drama connected to an opulent Savannah, Georgia, mansion. Lepley plays Benny, a have not.

"One of the reasons why the show is doing so well is ... the dichotomy of the way these two different cultures interact with each other," Lepley says. "If we're have nots in the tangible world, through hard work and faith and staying diligent, you can overcome those circumstances. ... I'm living proof of that."

CHRIS JORDAN
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Discovered

His big break

Lepley, a running back for Kutztown University, was discovered while working at a gym in Santa Monica.

"I was approached while I was hanging out at the gym," Lepley, 27, says. "I had nothing else going on at the time. ... I went to an audition and I had never acted or thought about doing anything like that. It was an interesting process. ... Potential doesn't mean anything if you don't do something about it."

TV Watch list

COMEDY

'New Girl'

The whole loft crew (plus Cece) head back to Portland, Oregon, for Jess' father's wedding. We're hoping for some embarrassing flashbacks of high school-era Jess and Cece. **9 P.M., FOX**

'Parks and Recreation'

The "Parks" farewell tour continues, with another doubleheader of episodes. In the first one, Andy films the last episode of his "Johnny Karate" TV show. We wish that was a real program, because we would surely watch it if it was. **8 P.M., NBC**

Gibbs looks sad that he has to sit out this case against his archnemesis on "NCIS." MONTY BRINTON, CBS

DRAMA

'NCIS'

Gibbs makes the difficult decision to sit out a fight against his archnemesis because he wants to spend time with Fornell, who's still reeling from the loss of his wife. **8 P.M., CBS**
LISA WEIDENFELD

PLUS

The standout

Public School

Ladies and gentlemen, meet the puffer cape. Public School distilled two of fall's biggest trends — the poncho and the puffer — into one giant cloud-like garment that looked more like a blanket than a coat. We guarantee every editor in attendance wished she had one this week.

Urbane sizzle meets

Reviews

Prabal Gurung

A trip to the Adirondacks in upstate New York inspired Prabal Gurung's collection of oversize funnel-necked sweaters, fur-trimmed velvet coats and Native American-inspired patterns, which appeared on the designer's signature slit-up-to-there dresses. Gurung has proved he can do sexy multiple times (the frocks felt a little been-there-done-that), but the coziness here was new. The deconstructed fair isle knits, particularly in a figure-hugging midi dress, felt fresh.

RAQUEL LANERI

DKNY

DKNY's city badass gets fancy for fall, tricking out the season's big menswear-inspired trend with sparkly details like bedazzled undone ties on tailored suits or jewel embellishments on a tough bomber.

The outerwear was the star of the show: Smart, clean wool coats in gray, camel, navy and herringbone grabbed attention. No flash necessary.

TINA CHADHA

DVF

"Girl you work it" lyrics from The Weekend's new single for "50 Shades" seduced as models hit the runway. Working it is exactly what the women who wear DVF's unabashedly sexy collection will do. While the daywear just hinted at sexuality (the classic decolletage-exposing wrap dress, a fitted pinstripe suit and coquettish florals), it's evening when the femme fatale comes out, with slinky slipdresses, red lace cocktail numbers and some oh la la, leave-little-to-the-imagination gowns. TC

Jason Wu

At Jason Wu's slightly subversive fall outing, the designer showed exceptionally tailored trousers, demure dresses with eyebrow-raising slits and luxe fur stoles in military green, inky black and soft gray. Wu, who's dressed first lady Michelle Obama for a fancy occasion or two, knows his way around gorgeous evening wear. This season he kept it fuss free: beaded T-shirt gowns, a shiny black jumpsuit, and a light-as-air white crepe halter that was just breathtaking. Oscar nominees, are you reading? TC

Derek Lam

New York literati like Diane Keaton and Katharine Hepburn inspired the long, billowy trousers and '70s-tinged tweed suits in Derek Lam's refined collection. But we were also charmed by the knits: The cool opening navy V-neck with elbow patches, ever so slightly oversize hazelnut colored crewneck or any of the polished wool turtlenecks will be supersmart buys. TC

'70s glamour at NYFW

Edun

Danielle Sherman has done something rare: She's created a collection that looks like nothing else on the runways at New York Fashion Week. To wit: irresistible peacoats with leather trim and raw, unfinished edges; youthquake turtleneck mini dresses with rock 'n' roll attitude; skinny jeans! The stuff looked luxe, but approachable, too — like a badass bonded-leather trench. We could see front-row seatmates Alexa Chung and Helena Christensen wearing all of it. **RL**

Wes Gordon

The long gray ribbed knit dress that opened Wes Gordon's show is the kind you'd imagine Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy wearing to run errands during a blistering freeze — like the one we're experiencing — and still look cozy and chic. Gordon designs for a well-heeled client, and this season he served her sexy minimalist looks in high-end fabrics (silky cashmere columns, minks galore and even jeans spun from finer Japanese denim). **TC**

Tibi

Remember your favorite blanket? The nubby one you loved curling up with? Now, imagine this old faithful repurposed into voluminous culottes or an oversize sweater that actually looks chic, and you'll get a sense of Tibi's fall show. The runway was full of cropped trousers and unaffected cool knits in soft, plush textures like shearling and mohair. The fuzzy fabrics also appeared on slippers. And those platform Mary Janes? Perfect for the flare pants set to take over come fall. **TC**

Suno

Mrs. Rochester — the madwoman in the attic in Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre" may have been an odd starting point for the relentlessly happy Suno. But the tension between the prim silhouettes and the sultry tropical prints produced rapturous results: whimsical floral jacquard shifts worn with matching cigarette pants, clingy ribbed turtleneck dresses with rainbow stripes, fair isle ski sweaters with rounded shoulders, flowing dresses with scandalous sheer insets. **RL**

Rebecca Minkoff

Punk poetess Patti Smith was the inspiration for Rebecca Minkoff's rock 'n' roll-inflected outing this season, though the result had more in common with a lighter West Coast style than with Smith's hard-edged New York City grit and androgynous chic. No matter: Minkoff's fans will find plenty to salivate over here: frayed shearling vests, diaphanous chiffon maxi dresses, and printed knit ponchos worn with leather minis and tall fringe boots. **RL**

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Christian Siriano

Christian Siriano took a walk on the wild side this spring, punching up his ladylike coats and beloved 1950s silhouettes with animal prints and hot colors like a lush autumnal orange, burnt sienna and jungle green. The fierce topcoats — in tiger print or camel-colored — and fuzzy alpaca turtlenecks were particularly strong, but front-row celebs like Coco Rocha surely went gaga over the oversize Dolce & Gabbana-esque floral ball gowns that closed the show. **RL**

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Reviews

PROVIDED

Hood by Air

No wild theatrics, this time, Shayne Oliver's Hood By Air presentation focused on the clothes (well, not counting the flesh-colored stockings covering the models' faces, and the weird padlocked grilles on their teeth, but, hey, it's HBA). Oliver took basics like cargo pants, puffer coats, polos, and striped mohair sweaters and deconstructed them beyond recognition, morphing them into new, hybridized garments — some recalling the early experiments of Olivier Theyskens or Haider Ackermann. In a way, HBA has aways been about elevating streetwear to the realm of high art, but here the stakes felt richer: Witness the uber-luxe fur bomber that closed the show. Can HBA become a bonafide Euro-style luxury brand? It will be interesting to see.

RAQUEL LANERI

GETTY IMAGES

Mara Hoffman

Mara Hoffman's festival babe is all grown-up, swapping her skimpy patchwork dresses for elegant black gowns trimmed in colorful faux fur, her tie-dyed cropped tops for cozy turtlenecks and knit jumpers. (She kept the Coachella braids.) The collection retained Hoffman's eccentric spunk — the colors, the embroidery were as wild as ever — but imbued it with a new sense of sophistication and restraint.

RL

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The talking points

3 Things to know about the Alexander Wang show

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1 North West created a frenzy with her custom-made studded skirt, designed by Wang to match his collection. Aw!

2 The creeper boots were giant. GIANT. Don't dare with mess with the person wearing these. Also, great for short people! Just saying.

3 "50 Shades of Grey" did open on the same day.

ONESIES, $24 EACH /

Banana Republic expands to babies

Sneak peek. You will have to wait until Feb. 25 to get your hands on this offer online.

Banana Republic is introducing its first ever baby line, Banana Republic Mini, a capsule collection of cozy clothing and accessories for infants ages 0-12 months. Made with cashmere, pure cotton knits and terry cloth, it's not the cheapest babywear, but it is adorable. The collection will be available starting tomorrow at New York City's Lower Fifth Ave. store and online as of Feb. 25.

EMILY LAURENCE
@EmLaurence
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Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Stay in the background, where you can watch and learn. Adopting a bold stance will not be to your advantage.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20 You will have an incredible impact on others. Discuss your intentions and map out your plans. Your contribution will result in respect.

Aries | March 21-April 20 If change is required, you should take action. Waiting for someone else to make a move will waste valuable time. You have the know-how, so don't procrastinate.

Taurus | April 21-May 21 Have fun by becoming involved in creative activities. Include the youngsters in your life and it will bring you closer together.

Gemini | May 22-June 20 Your ideas won't go far if you keep them bottled up. Share your thoughts and take part in events. The more people you meet, the more allies you will recruit.

Cancer | June 21-July 22 Keep a close watch on your wallet. If someone comes to you with a tale of woe, help out with suggestions and keep your money safe.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22 It is time to step back and re-evaluate a current partnership. Staying involved with someone for the wrong reasons will not bring good results.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The extra effort needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle will pay off. If you slip, don't beat yourself up. The important thing is to keep trying.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22 It's hard to get serious about your future if you remain stuck in the same routine and habits. Shake off the cobwebs.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Question your commitment to someone or something. It's not fair to lead someone on if you have lost interest.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Making extra time for the people who count in your life will be appreciated. Negotiations will prove to be fruitful. Strive to excel.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Handling finances for other people will be risky and thankless. Without the proper precautions, you will end up facing some serious losses. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		5		7		1		4
4				9	2	7		
7		8					5	
	8			1				
	6	9				2	3	
				6			9	
	7					3		9
		3	1	5				2
9		2		3		4		

	5	4						
			4		3	1		
6	1	8	2			4		
			3	4				6
4	9			2			1	8
7				1	8			
		1			2	6	8	4
		9	5		4			
						5	9	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

A healthy, holy diet

This Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period before Easter, when many Christians abstain from animal foods in remembrance of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert before launching his ministry. But meat-free Lent is much more than a symbol of religious devotion to Christ. It helps reduce the risk of chronic disease, environmental degradation, and animal abuse. Dozens of medical reports have linked consumption of animal products with elevated risk of heart failure, stroke, cancer, and other killer diseases. A 2007 U.N. report named meat production as the largest source of greenhouse gases and water pollution. Undercover investigations have documented farm animals being beaten, caged, crowded, deprived, mutilated, and shocked. Lent offers a superb opportunity to honor Christ's powerful message of compassion and love by adopting a meat-free diet for Lent an beyond. After all, it's the diet mandated in Genesis I-29 and observed in the Garden of Eden.

Our supermarkets offer a rich array of plant-based meat and dairy alternatives, as well as the more traditional vegetables, fruits, and grains. Entering "vegan recipes" in our favorite search engine offers more products, recipes, and transition tips than we can use.

BERNARD JACOBSEN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

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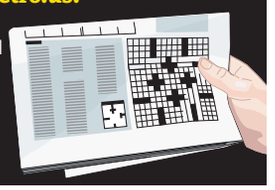
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.



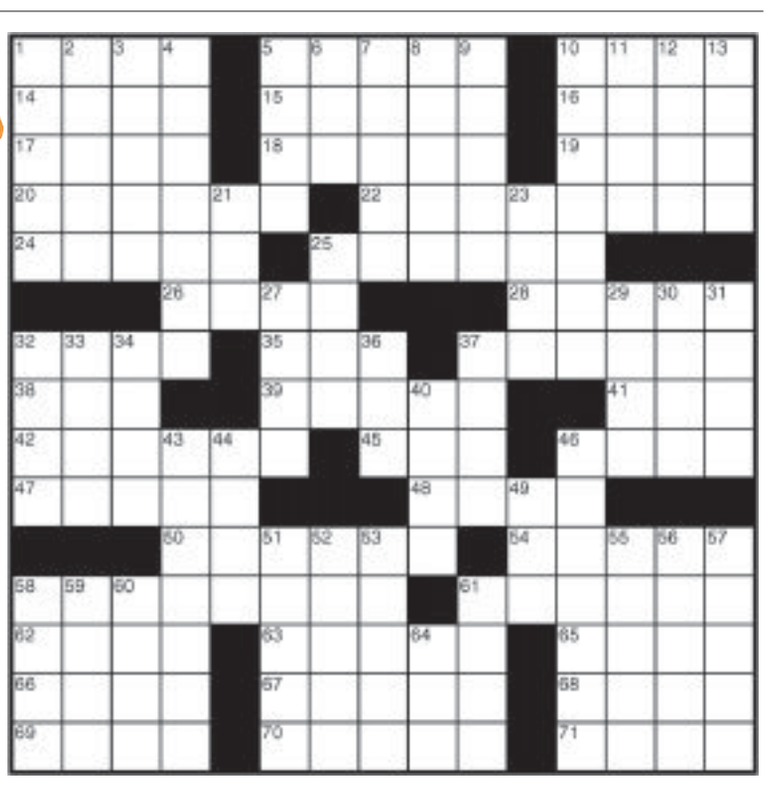
Crossword

Across

1 Shopping plaza
5 Turn signal
10 "Yikes!" (hyph.)
14 Not into the wind
15 Tijuana kid
16 Vineyard valley
17 Wool-eater
18 Solitude enjoyer
19 Dart
20 Chiffonier
22 Belt alternative
24 Nose stimuli
25 Feel curious
26 Chan rejoinder (2 wds.)
28 One-celled plants
32 Link up
35 Affectedly modest
37 Naval officer
38 PIN prompter
39 Custom
41 Software problem
42 Made candles
45 Relatives
46 Go off course
47 Writing assignment
48 Ancient harp
50 Tracked down
54 Fierce whales
58 Sure to happen (3 wds.)
61 Cover crop
62 Barge
63 Tally
65 Cyrus' realm, now
66 Sand mandala builder
67 Tarot readers
68 Chilean boy
69 "No sweat!"
70 Ms. Lauder
71 Duffel filler

Down

1 Ballroom number
2 Audibly
3 Nostalgic fashion
4 Mideast capital (var.)
5 Rights org.
6 Frat letter
7 Beatles drummer
8 Canoe anagram
9 Universe
10 Unfold a flag
11 Holbrook et al.
12 Sheriff Andy's kid
13 Chapeaus
21 Blonde shade
23 Bend forward
25 Goes to court?
27 Race by, as clouds
29 Taunt
30 Flu symptom
31 MIT grad
32 Oriental-art stone
33 Cornelia -- Skinner
34 Scamps
36 Talk, talk, talk
37 Counting-rhyme start
40 Coat with gold
43 Trail
44 Fictional governess
46 Bordering on
49 Future fish
51 Degrade
52 Canary abodes
53 Wading bird
55 Marie or Pierre
56 Freezer name
57 Hombre's title
58 Castaway's refuge
59 Orange Bowl org.
60 Back-fence yowlers
61 — -majeste
64 Sooner than anon



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AMAR'E LOVE OVER THE TOP

Playing the field

MATT BURKE
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How low have things gotten in New York when it comes to pro sports?

Fans are actually sad to see Amar'e Stoudemire leave town.

During the city's glory days, an injury-prone, ringless superstar player who never lived up to a monster free agent deal would have been driven straight to JFK without a thank you and most likely with a parting middle finger. It really, truly wouldn't have mattered or not if he was a "nice guy."

Instead, the back-and-forth between Stoudemire and Knicks fans got pretty sappy, pretty quickly Monday afternoon after it was announced in the a.m. that he and the Knicks had reached an agreement on a buyout.

Stoudemire posted a poem on his Instagram account Monday, thanking the city:

"NY NY what a beautiful city, a place where you can hang out with Anna, Jay-Z and Diddy; It's a place absent of excuses and patience, if you're smart you can meet leaders of every nation; NY NY big city of dreams, everything in NY isn't always what it seems; In the land where the jungle is concrete, the money flows Dow Jones and Wall Street; Home of #STATcity and the #Knickstape Originator, Shalom to all my fans, Salute to all my haters. Peace and Love, Amar'e Carsares Stoudemire Sr."

Touching. It reads like something that was written by a 12-time champion and someone who had spent his entire career in NYC (he spent eight years in Phoenix, compared to just five in New York).

A couple of Tweets from Knicks fans Monday: @CMSexton: "Amar'e, you were a great Knick. You got us Melo, and your streak of 30 point games was one of the best stretches of Knick fandom in years."

"@jstar277 Amar'e thanks for being a great #knick #nyk"

Really? Oh, and you know those pointless CBS Sports Radio minutes on WFAN in which John Feinstein rambles on about Georgetown girls lacrosse and Maryland basketball? Some President's Day Feinstein fill-in actually said, "thank you" to Amar'e on behalf of Knicks fans.

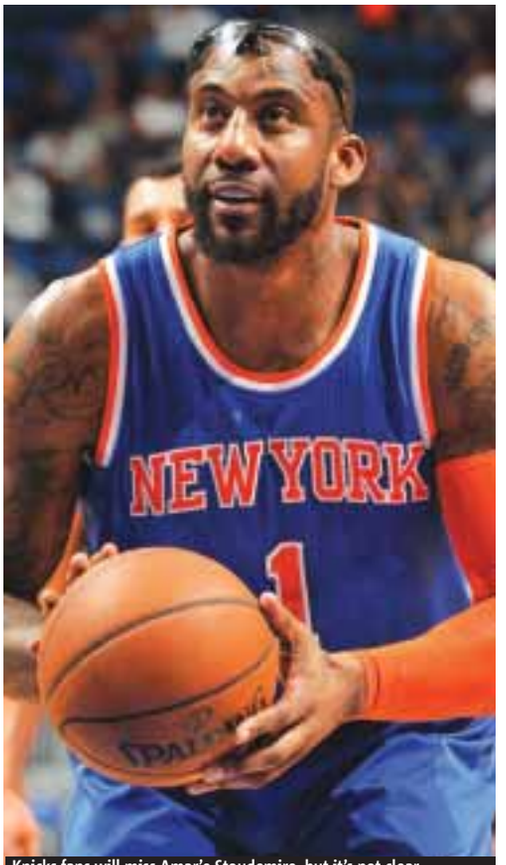
Seriously, what am I missing here?

LISA ANN
GETTY IMAGES

Lust & basketball

Pornstar Lisa Ann says she is retired from the business, but that doesn't mean she's done bedding men half her age. Ms. Ann host told GQ magazine that she "prefers" NBA players to all other walks of human life and that she scouts the NBA draft each year for her next conquests. Lisa Ann was in New York this past weekend for the gold mine of potential NBA gold diggers, All-Star weekend, and was no doubt impressed by the prospects of Andrew Wiggins.

It appears as though Lisa Ann was hoping to spend more than a New York minute with the young star, as on Friday she re-tweeted some generic game stories of Andrew Wiggins playing well in something called the Rising Stars Challenge (re-tweeting game stories is the best way to any man's heart, of course). At the very least, Wiggins is the right age for the 42-year-old as she said that she's not big on vets."I'm looking at 18, 19, 20-year-old guys. They're my little specimens."



Knicks fans will miss Amar'e Stoudemire, but it's not clear as to why. / GETTY IMAGES

MLB. Bernie, Andy, Jorge to be honored

The numbers 51, 20 and 46 will never be worn by a New York Yankee ever again as the team announced Monday that Bernie Williams, Jorge Posada and Andy Pettitte will have their numbers retired.

The three Yankees were key figures in the Yankees' dynastic run during the 1990s and Posada and Pettitte were also a part of New York's title winning 2009 team. The Yanks will now have 22 numbers retired. METRO

Bernie Williams' No. 51 is headed to Monument Park.
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NHL power rankings | by Rich Slate

No. 1

Predators (38-12-6)

Nashville bolstered its depth by trading for Toronto defenseman Cody Franson and forward Mike Santorelli on Sunday, signaling that they are really going for it all this season.

No. 2

Blues (37-15-4)

The second best team in the NHL also resides in the Central. St. Louis has won its last three games and is 8-2-0 in its last 10. The Blues are tied with Chicago for best goal-differential at plus-41.

No. 3

Canadiens (36-15-4)

The top two teams in the East are having quite a battle in the Atlantic. Montreal and Tampa Bay both have 76 points but the Habs have done it in three fewer games and are 7-2-1 in their last 10.

No. 4

Lightning (35-17-6)

Tampa Bay kicked off its five-game road trip by destroying San Jose. Things figure to get tougher for the Lightning in Anaheim. Tampa Bay's goal-differential is an impressive plus-33.

No. 5

Ducks (35-15-7)

With Frederik Andersen on IR (neck), the Ducks are scuffling a bit (4-5-1) in their last 10 games). The good news is that no matter what happens, it is next to impossible for the Sharks to catch them.

No. 6

Blackhawks (35-18-4)

The Blackhawks are picking it up (5-3-2 in their last 10) and are now in fourth place in the West. Marian Hossa (17 goals, 25 assists) is on fire, as he had two goals in three straight games last week.

No. 7

Islanders (37-18-1)

The Isles' four-game win streak was snapped Monday after losing to the Rangers. They'll host the Predators on Wednesday and have dates with Washington and Vancouver this weekend.

No. 8

Red Wings (31-13-10)

The Red Wings dropping four spots from last week is more of a function of the teams around them playing really well. Detroit is set to head out on a season-high six-game road trip.

No. 9

Penguins (32-15-9)

The Penguins are 6-3-1 in their last 10 games and they were right there before dropping a 2-1 shootout in Chicago on Sunday. Saturday's game in St. Louis should be interesting.

No. 10

Rangers (33-16-5)

The Rangers are doing more than just surviving without the services of Henrik Lundqvist. New York have won its last four games after Monday's 6-5 come-from-behind win over the Isles.

No. 11

Capitals (30-17-10)

Alex Ovechkin took over the goals lead in the NHL with two tallies at Anaheim, giving him 36 on the season. The race for the top four spots in the Metropolitan Division is tight.

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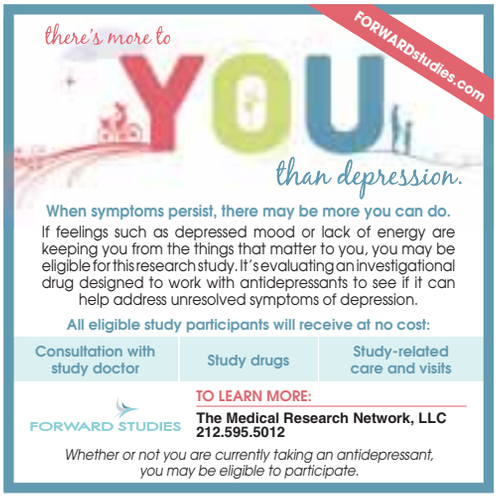
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW, that the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition for Gallaghs LLC to continue to maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk cafe 962 2nd Ave., in the Borough of Manhattan for a term of four years.

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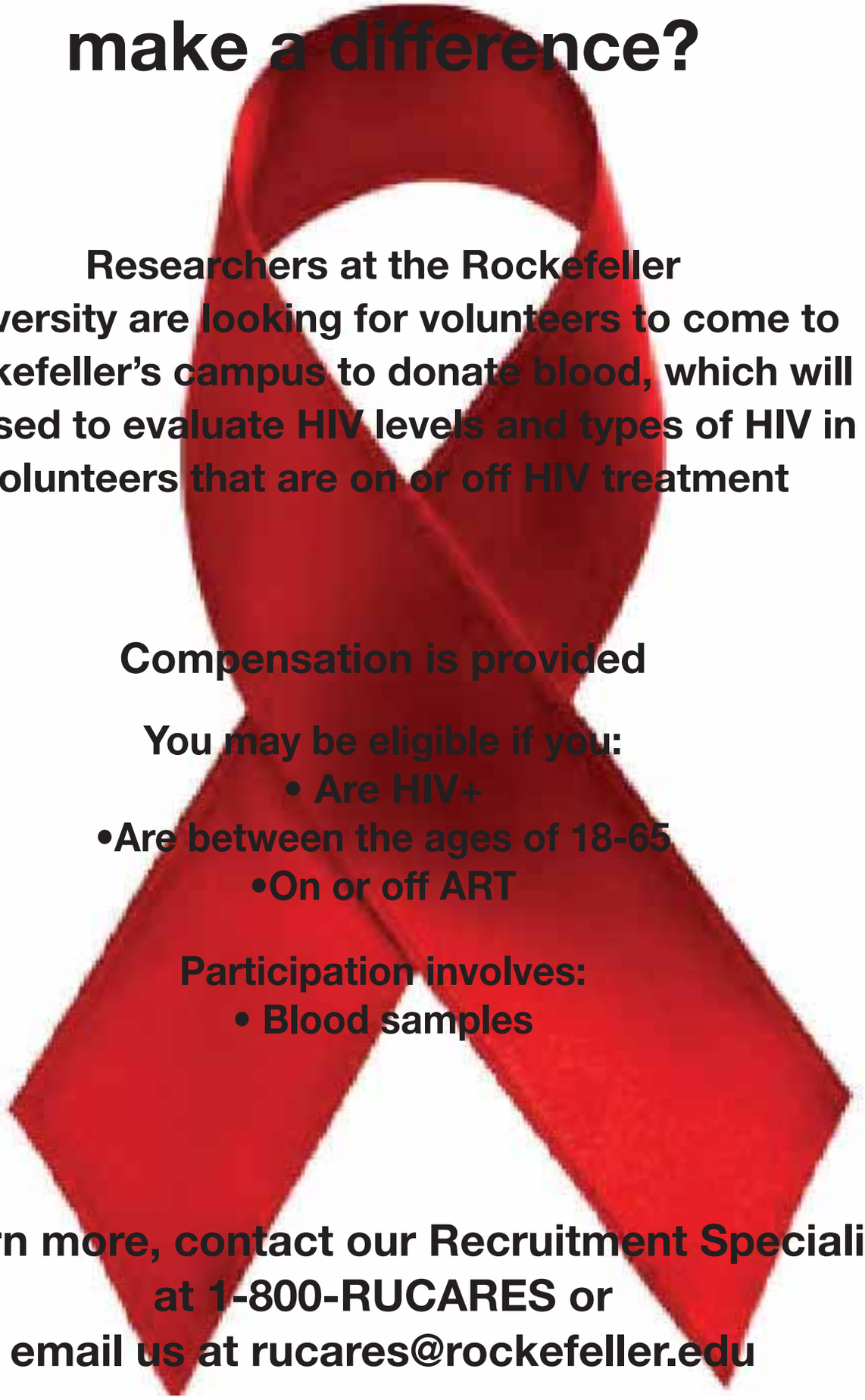
Are you HIV+ and looking to make a difference?



Researchers at the Rockefeller University are looking for volunteers to come to Rockefeller's campus to donate blood, which will be used to evaluate HIV levels and types of HIV in volunteers that are on or off HIV treatment

Compensation is provided

You may be eligible if you:

- **Are HIV+**
- **Are between the ages of 18-65**
- **On or off ART**

Participation involves:

- **Blood samples**

To learn more, contact our Recruitment Specialist at 1-800-RUCARES or email us at rucares@rockefeller.edu